

DISCUSSION

Defendant moves to dismiss plaintiff's complaint alleging that it improperly names defendant and therefore service is insufficient because an entity other than that named in the summons has been served. Defendant further argues that plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

A Rule 12(b)(6) motion challenges the legal sufficiency of a plaintiff's complaint. *Francis v. Giacomelli*, 588 F.3d 186, 192 (4th Cir. 2009). When ruling on the motion, the court "must accept as true all of the factual allegations contained in the complaint." *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 93–94 (2007) (citing *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555–56 (2007)). Although complete and detailed factual allegations are not required, "a plaintiff's obligation to provide the 'grounds' of his 'entitle[ment] to relief' requires more than labels and conclusions." *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555 (citations omitted). "Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555). Similarly, a court need not accept as true a plaintiff's "unwarranted inferences, unreasonable conclusions, or arguments." *Eastern Shore Mkts. v. J.D. Assocs. Ltd.*, 213 F.3d 175, 180 (4th Cir. 2000). A trial court is "not bound to accept as true a legal conclusion couched as a factual allegation." *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555.

Here, plaintiff has done nothing but recite legal conclusions of race discrimination. To establish a *prima facie* case of intentional discrimination on the terms and conditions of employment, an aggrieved employee must show, among other things, that he suffered an adverse employment action and that he was treated differently than a similarly situated, non-protected employee. *James v. Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc.*, 368 F.3d 371, 375–76 (4th Cir. 2004). There are simply no facts alleged in this case that suggest that plaintiff suffered any adverse

employment action or that WI treated him less favorably than a white employee who engaged in similar conduct.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, defendant's motion to dismiss is GRANTED. Plaintiff's claims are DISMISSED in their entirety. The clerk is directed to close the file.

SO ORDERED.

This the 23 day of May, 2014.



TERRENCE W. BOYLE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE